

FLOOR SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

| HOUSE MEETS AT: | FIRST VOTE PREDICTED: | LAST VOTE PREDICTED: |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m.: Morning Hour 12:00 p.m.: Legislative Business Fifteen "One Minutes" | 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. |

[H.Res. 125](#) – Rule Providing for Further Consideration of H.R. 5 – Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act (Rep. Kline – Education and the Workforce) (One Hour of Debate). The Rules committee has recommended a structured Rule for amendments to H.R. 5.

The Rule provides for consideration of 43 amendments, each debatable for 10 minutes, equally controlled by the proponent and opponent and 1 amendment in the nature of a substitute, debatable for 20 minutes, equally divided between the offeror and an opponent.

The Rules Committee rejected a motion by Mr. Polis of Colorado to make in order a number of Democratic amendments. The Committee also rejected a motion by Mr. Hastings of Florida to consider H.R. 5 under an open Rule. **Members are urged to VOTE NO.**

Continue Consideration of [H.R. 5](#) – Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act (Rep. Kline – Education and the Workforce) (One Hour of Debate). This bill reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for fiscal years 2016 through 2021, followed by an automatic reauthorization through FY2022. It authorizes \$116.5 billion in funding through FY2021 for ESEA programs, flat funding these programs at \$23.3 billion per year, the FY2015 appropriated level, without allowing room for even inflationary adjustments despite a combined projected 14% decrease in purchasing power due to inflation and 3.2 million student enrollment increase before 2021.

The bill makes several detrimental funding changes to programs in ESEA. It combines the funding for all programs and subgroups included in Title I (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged) of ESEA into a block grant called Local Academic Flex Grants. States and local districts are allowed to use these grants for any activity authorized under Title I at any school that receives Title I funds. The bill requires that 10% of the Local Academic Flex Grants be used for private sector schools. The bill also eliminates the poverty threshold requirement of current law, which states that if the percentage of students living in poverty in a particular school is less than 40, Title I funds must be spent on programs targeting those low-income students specifically. Further, it includes a portability of Title I funds provision that will divert and dilute limited funds from high-need schools or districts with a high concentration of poverty. These three changes would have the effect of allowing funds to be diverted away from schools with the highest poverty and allows districts to send less money to low-income schools and more money to wealthier schools. Lastly, H.R. 5 block-grants all funding for special populations such as English learners, migrant students, Native students, and at-risk students, and allows those funds to be spent outside of those populations.

The bill eliminates supports for teachers and eliminates collective bargaining protections in current law. H.R. 5 repeals the highly-qualified teacher requirement (under current law, in order to be deemed a highly qualified teacher, public school teachers must hold at least a bachelor's degree, have obtained full state certification or have passed the state teacher licensing examination, and hold a license to teach), as well as the requirement that qualified teachers be equitably distributed so that some areas are not disproportionately served by unqualified teachers. This allows funding for teacher supports to be shifted away from the poorest schools to wealthier ones. It also eliminates the requirement to ensure quality professional development for teachers, only assessing them for hiring or firing, and eliminates dedicated funding for this purpose.

The bill also weakens protections for students with disabilities and fails to ensure that all children receive quality education. H.R. 5 eliminates the 1% cap for the number of students allowed to be assessed under alternative standards. This would permit all students with disabilities to be held to lower standards and given different assessments, effectively allowing those students to be educated in a lesser system. Further, it removes limits on the numbers of students who can be diverted into this alternate system, creating a perverse incentive to over-identify children for special education as a way to improve the average performance score of those students who remain in the regular assessment system. Finally, the bill removes graduation rates as an accountability measure, again creating a perverse incentive to encourage lower performing students to drop out.

Instead of improving standards and accountability to ensure that students are college or career ready, H.R. 5 removes accountability provisions that ensure all students receive a quality education. The bill allows states to weaken standards, weaken the assessment process, and institute weak accountability systems that would not require performance targets for student achievement, specific actions to improve low performance, or consequences if schools do not improve. Lastly, the White House has issued a SAP stating that the President's senior advisors would recommend that he veto this bill.

There is no question that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is overdue for an update. However, instead of fixing the problems and improving quality and testing provisions, H.R. 5 would provide inadequate funding and move backward on equity and accountability, harming the education of our nation's children. **Members are urged to VOTE NO.**

A full list of the 44 amendments made in order can be found [HERE](#).

Bill Text for H.R. 5:

[PDF Version](#)

Background for H.R. 5:

[House Report \(HTML Version\)](#)

[House Report \(PDF Version\)](#)

[CRS Report](#): ESEA Reauthorization Proposals in the 114th Congress: Selected Key Issues

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule for Friday, February 27: The House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. The House is expected to complete consideration of H.R. 5 – Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act (Rep. Kline – Education and the Workforce).

The Daily Quote

“‘If a clean bill [to fund the Department of Homeland Security] comes here, we have to accept a vote on it,’ said Rep. Pete King (R-N.Y.), who has been critical of his colleagues during previous funding showdowns. King suggested the GOP brand would suffer if the agency were to shut down. ‘People think we’re crazy. There are terrorist attacks all over the world and we’re talking about closing down Homeland Security. This is like living in a world with crazy people,’ King said.”

- The Hill, 2/25/2015